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2004: Slavery Abolition Year

International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition

The proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of the year 2004 as International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition marks, on the one hand, the bicentenary of the proclamation of the first black state, Haiti, symbol of the struggle and resistance of slaves, and triumph of the principles of liberty, equality, dignity and the rights of the individual, and, on the other, the fraternal reunion of the peoples of Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe. The aims of the Commemoration are to:

Toussaint Louverture (1743-1803)

- sensitize the Member States of the Organization to the consequences of slavery and its abolition throughout the African diaspora, and take cognizance of the struggle for the liberation of the peoples concerned;
- commemorate the bicentenary of the Haitian Revolution which led to the establishment of the first black republic in the Western hemisphere, and, by extension, to the liberation of the peoples of the Caribbean and Latin America from slavery;
- mobilize the international community, the academic world and civil society towards helping to promote a culture of peace in redressing the aftermath of this tragedy, in order to prevent new forms of slavery. UNESCO's action in 2004 will hinge on a number of priority thrusts adopting an intersectoral, multidisciplinary and inter-institutional approach pinpointing in particular the "Slave Route" project with the following principal axes : historic truth, memory, intercultural dialogue, development and peace. It is in this regard that the commemoration is of universal interest: it will not simply refer to the past, but will give a clear view of the present, offering lasting prospects of intercultural dialogue in the future.

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UNESCO's programme for the 2004 commemoration is now available.

For further information, visit our websites:

- o Slave Route
- o Iron Roads in Africa
- o General History of Africa
- o General History of the Caribbean
- o Slave Trade Archives
- o A selection of UNESCO Publishing

News



« Esclaves oubliés »

31 Mar 2004 - Dans le cadre de l'année internationale de commémoration de la lutte contre l'esclavage et de son abolition, l'UNESCO va lancer le 31 mars prochain, sous son parrainage, un programme de recherche et de communication intitulé « Esclaves oubliés » qui s'appuie sur un événement dramatique qui s'est produit en 1761 dans l'Océan Indien.



Launching of Virtual Exhibition "Lest We Forget"

20 Mar 2004 - On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, UNESCO is launching the virtual exhibition entitled "Lest we forget; the Triumph over Slavery" to mark "2004, International Year to Commemorate the Struggle Against Slavery and its Abolition", on 20 march 2004, (Salle I, 1 p.m.).



Le Directeur général lance à Maurice les manifestations organisées dans l'océan indien pour l'Année internationale de commémoration de la lutte contre l'esclavage et de son abolition

20 Feb 2004 - Le Directeur général de l'UNESCO, en visite officielle à Maurice (17-19 février 2004), a procédé au lancement officiel des manifestations organisées dans l'océan indien pour célébrer l'Année internationale de commémoration de la lutte contre l'esclavage et de son abolition.



Visite officielle du Directeur général en Angola (13-15 janvier)

16 Jan 2004 - Le Directeur général de l'UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, a effectué une visite officielle en Angola, du 13 au 15 janvier 2004, à l'invitation du gouvernement.



Official visit of the Director-General to Ghana (8 – 10 January)

09 Jan 2004 - On the invitation of the Ghanaian Head of State, President John Kufuor, the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura will be paying an official visit to Ghana from 8 – 10 January 2004.



Launch of International Year for the Commemoration of the Struggle Against Slavery and its Abolition

05 Jan 2004 - On January 10, UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura will officially launch the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle